

DARE TO DREAM



Dear Family and friends,

We are already on two thirds of the year. I know, it is going so quick! I just wanted to give you a quick update on a few things that have been happening and going to happen here in Kenya, and the rest of the world.

- Farm
- Business Training
- Loans
- Visitors and a Break
- Los Angeles and Nashville
- Thank You

Farm

As most of you know, we have been farming onions, maize and beans over the last year to raise money for our program. Well, after set back after set back, we finally got a decent harvest again. But we also realized that we need to take a different approach to this. So what we are going to change our farm plans. We are not getting rid of it, because we have seen that it works and it is profitable. We just need to change our game plan.



Right now we have continued the lease, to keep possession of the land, but we will let the land 'rest' for a few months. Which is a strange concept to most people here. But I told them, I know what I am doing, just trust me. While the land is resting we are finishing up our purchase for the piece of land. When the sale has gone through, we will now focus on developing the land. We will have 3 fish ponds with about 500 Tilapia in each pond. And the rest of the land we will continue with onion farming. We are looking at partnering with an organization who deals with solar pumps. Getting a solar pump will cut a huge piece of our expenses, since Mbita gets really hot and

dry. We should be able to start on all this in November of this year.

Business Training

Having cancelled the Mbita training, we are still continuing in Webuye with CMN. The group is a group of women who are either widows, or who's family can really use some assistance. After our business training, there will be a group from the US to teach these women sewing. With these two teachings they will now be able to start a business for their family and help become more self-sustainable.

Then our next business training for our pastors will be at the end of October in Kisumu with 10 more pastors.

I have been asked a lot about our numbers, and every time you can see the look on the persons face thinking that 'those are low numbers'. Yes. That is true, and we are proud of that. I then tell them, 'I rather empower the few well, then be useless to the many'. Quality over quantity.



Loans

Even though we stopped giving out new loans in Mbita, we are still able to continue with CMN in Suba. Right now 7 pastors in Suba have been able to receive a loan from us which is allowing their businesses to grow. Also Shadrack in Mbita has received his loan, and is doing great!

There are also a few who are having a hard time right now. In a culture where family means so much, it is hard sometimes to keep family money and business money separate. This is hard to explain to them, especially coming from a culture that is completely different. This is not always easy, and doesn't come immediately, but with time we will get there.

If you are willing to support Dare To Dream, you can make your one time or monthly donation to:

Conejo Church: P.O. Box 792, Newbury Park, CA 91320, Note: Support Dare To Dream, (and the name of the project or personal support)

Stichting Springplank:
NL64 INGB 0009 5901 31
BIC: INGBNL2A, Note: t.a.v. Bob de Groot,
Support Dare to Dream (and the name of the project or personal support)

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Los Angeles and Nashville

Great news, one of my great friends, Rob, is getting married! (I can hear you think; Bob and Rob?) Yes. So, September the 18th I'm able to go to LA. This will immediately be my yearly visit as well. I will be in LA from September 18 - 26, and October 1 - 13. Then the 26th till the 1st I will come to Nashville for a few days, thanks to an amazing friend. If you would like to have some time to talk about Dare To Dream please send me a message or email, and I would love to take you out for some coffee.

Visitors and Break

Beside the summer medical teams, we have also received some other visitors here in Kenya. It has been great seeing people from 'home' and show them or talk about this country and all its beauty and flaws. It makes it hard sometimes to visit home and talk about something that has happened here in Kenya, but most people have no idea what you are talking about. It has been a huge blessing having some people coming to visit, and know that next time I see them I can talk about the heat, or the dusty roads, or the children hospital, and they will understand you.

I've also been blessed to take some time off and visit the coast. There I met up with a family from The Netherlands whose son was getting married. They invited me to come and be at the wedding, at this beautiful spot in Mombasa. Then the day after the wedding, on my birthday, I drove up to Malindi, where missionary friends had moved. Seeing them, and being able to rest at the coast was incredible. Thank you all who have made it possible for me to take that break, it was definitely needed.



Thank You

To you who read our updates on a regular base know that we always let you know that we are very thankful for your support. These last few months have not been easy for us here in Kenya. But because of your support both morally, financially, and spiritually we have been able to press in and fight through the hard times, and come out more than conquerors. Our staff members are doing much better and are slowly making their way back to work. And our program is continuing to impact the lives of the people around us. Thankfulness is being proclaimed, children going back to school, food being put on the tables and dreams are now being considered as possibilities. I pray that you will know how thankful we are for you!



For any information please write us, we are always ready to answer any of your questions.

Love and blessings from Kenya!

Bob de Groot
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